

Message Text

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14-12

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 L-02 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 H-02 OES-03 EB-07 HEW-02

PA-01 STR-04 /050 W

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P 150843Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9421

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EARG, ETRD, JA

SUBJ: U.S. CITRUS: FUNGICIDE

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

REF: (A) TOFAS 229; (B) TOFAS 226

SUMMARY. MHW CHEMICAL ANALYSES CONTINUE REVEAL MORE U.S. CITRUS WITH
OPP AND/OR TBZ. SO FAR CHEMICALS DETECTED ONLY ON CALIFORNIA
FRUIT. ONE SHIPMENT FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT MAY
BE CANCELLED. AGATT WITH EMBASSY BACKING
PLANNING WITH YOUR CONCURRENCE MAKE STRONG PUSH TO GET OPP
AND TBZ APPROVED. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE SUPPLY AGATT WITH
PETITION FOR OPP AND CONTACT MSD FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE ON TBZ
PETITION TRANSLATION.

1. PLEASE USE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP FOLLOWING INFO FROM LEAKING
TO PRESS.

2. AGATT AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH
BOTH MAF AND MHW FEELS ONLY POSSIBLE PERMANENT SOLUTION TO SUBJECT
PROBLEM IS GOJ APPROVAL OF USE OF OPP AND TBZ. PROBLEM NOW
OCCUPYING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION FROM BOTH MHW AND MAF. CERTAIN
KEY PERSONNEL IN BOTH MINISTRIES INFORMALLY AGREE PERHAPS TIMING

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IS RIGHT. THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU OBJECT, WE PREPARING MAKE STRONG
EFFORT TO GET MHW TO POSITIVELY CONSIDER AND HOPEFULLY APPROVE

USE OF OPP AND TBZ AT 10 PPM AS WILL APPARENTLY SOON BE RECOMMENDED BY CODEX ALIMENTARIUS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IF YOU CONCUR, PLEASE CONTACT H. BOYD WOODRUFF, PH D (HEAD OF TOKYO OFFICE MSD), EXEC ADMIN, MERCK SHARP AND DOHME (MSD), RAHWAY, N.J 07065 AND ASK IF MSD CAN EXPEDITE TRANSLATION THEIR TBZ PETITION INTO JAPANESE FOR RESUBMISSION BY AGATT TO MHW. ALSO PLEASE LOCATE U.S. CHEMICAL COMPANY WILLING TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT TRANSLATED PETITION ON OPP. INSTRUCTIONS ON METHOD OF PREPARATION OF SUCH PETITIONS FOR MHW SENT WITH OUR AIDCOMM TOKYO NO 36 DATED MAR 17, 1975 RE CITRUS WAXES. ALSO NEED SCIENTIFIC DATA, ETC., RE SAFETY OF USING MIXTURE OF TBZ, OPP AND/OR DIPHENYL.

4. PLAN OF EXECUTION WILL BE INFORMAL CONTACT WITH ISHIMURA, DIRECTOR GENERAL, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BUREAU, MHW, TO INFORM HIM OF OUR INTENTIONS AND THEN OFFICIAL APPROACH FROM EMBASSY TO FONOFF. DIET SCHEDULED TO HAVE FREE QUESTION SESSION APRIL 17 AND 18. HENCE, FEEL IT IMPERATIVE TO MAKE FIRM APPROACH TO MHW EARLY LEST THEY MAKE UNFAVORABLE COMMITMENT TO DIET WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE USG OFFICIAL PLANS THUS REDUCING MHW ABILITY TO GIVE APPROVAL.

5. RATIONALE WILL BE:

A. NO PRACTICAL WAY FOR EITHER U.S. OR JAPANESE SIDE TO ADEQUATELY POLICE PROBLEM UNDER CURRENT GOJ REGULATIONS.

B. ONLY PERMANENT SOLUTION IS FOR GOJ TO APPROVE USE OF OPP AND TBZ.

C. CODEX ALIMENTARIUS ABOUT TO RECOMMEND USE OF BOTH TBZ AND OPP. (WILL PLACE PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON INTL ACCEPTANCE AS BASIS FOR MHW APPROVAL.)

D. WITHOUT GOJ COOPERATION PRESENT MHW REGULATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO CONSTITUTE EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO TRADE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

E. ANY OTHER POINTS YOU WISH TO SUGGEST.
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6. OPP AND/OR TBZ DETECTED ON SIX OTHER LOTS SINCE REF A VIZ., FOUR LOTS OF LEMONS:

A. SUN TREAT BRAND: IMPORTED BY SAN TAI TRADING CO ABOARD SEALAND COMMERCE.

PACIFIC GOLD BRAND: TOYOTA TRADING CO ABOARD SEALAND COMMERCE.

FALL BROOK BRAND: SUMARU TRADING CO ABOARD QUEEN WAY BRIDGE.

FALL BROOK BRAND: SUMARU TRADING CO ABOARD AMERICAN MARU
OPP AND TBZ DETECTED ITEM D, OPP ONLY FOUND ON A, B AND C.

7. ONE LOT ORANGES AIR DROME BRAND; MARUBENI ABOARD SEALAND
TRADE; BOTH OPP AND TBZ DETECTED.

8. ONE LOT GRAPEFRUIT; SUN GIANT BRAND; URASE IMPORTER, SHIP
NAME NOT AVAILABLE; OPP ONLY DETECTED.

9. RE CANCELLATION SHIPMENTS OF FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT: MITSUI/
MITSUBISHI ORIGINALLY ORDERED SIX SHIPMENTS. FIVE ALREADY LEFT
FLORIDA. SIXTH ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR MID APRIL DEPARTURE ABOARD
HENRY BARBUSSE MAY REPEAT MAY BE CANCELLED. THIS SHIPMENT,
120,000 CARTONS, NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY MITSUI/MITSUBISHI.
SHIP WAITING FOR LOADING. IF CANCELLATION FEE APPEARS LESS
THAN LOSS LIKELY TO RESULT FROM PROCEEDING WITH IMPORTATION
DURING THIS PERIOD OF WEAK DEMAND, MITSUI/MITSUBISHI SAY
THEY WILL CANCEL. THIS IS APPARENTLY ONLY CASE OF POSSIBLE
CANCELLATION OF U.S. CITRUS RELATED DIRECTLY TO
CURRENT FUNGICIDE PROBLEM.
HODGSON

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